



DC | DEPARTMENT of
HUMAN SERVICES

DC Department of Human Services

Update on the Landlord Partnership Fund

January 9, 2019

Updated

Overview: Landlord Partnership Fund

- Purpose: Incentivize landlords to relax screening criteria for households who are experiencing homelessness by mitigating landlord exposure to increased costs including excess damage and unpaid rent.
- Partnership between DHS, TCP, CNHED and Downtown BID based on feedback from housing partners and advocates.
- Fund is managed and administered through CNHED and supported by private funding.

Learn more at CNHED Portal: <https://www.cnhed.org/special-initiatives/landlord-partnership-fund-llc/>

Process to Date

- Timeline:
 - Fall 2017: Announced to community
 - January 2018: Initial administration begins
 - Fall 2018: Fund is capitalized with large grant
- Current Administrative Process:
 - Application included in FRSP lease-up packet
 - Must cite criteria that is being relaxed (e.g. History of evictions and/or Housing debt)
 - Information verified and unit becomes eligible for future claims
- Fund covers up to \$5,000 per unit for:
 - Property damage beyond wear and tear up to \$2,500
 - Unpaid rent owed by a tenant up to \$5,000

Lessons Learned

- DHS and CNHED reviewed first 250 applications
 - No claims filed yet – expect first claims to come early 2019
- Observations:
 - Slow processing time due to high number of incomplete applications
 - Eligibility criteria differs from what is cited on application
 - Inconsistent awareness among landlords and broader community about process

Next Steps

- Solidify changes by the end of January:
 - Expand eligibility and streamline administration
 - Expand scope to PSH and TAH units
 - Make retroactive for all DHS-subsidized units leased-up in 2018
- Communicate changes by end of February:
 - Outreach to community
 - Letter to landlords
- Points of contact for feedback:
 - Scott Bruton, CNHED: sbruton@cnhed.org
 - Darrell Cason, DHS: darrell.cason3@dc.gov